

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	SENIOR LAWYER – PLANNING AND PROPERTY
<b>GRADE</b>	EPO6
<b>REPORTING TO</b>	LEAD LAWYER – PLANNING AND PROPERTY
<b>JD REF</b>	CSUP0099P

### PURPOSE

Focusing on Planning and Property, the post holder will provide forward thinking, customer focused and professional legal advice, support and assistance to the Council, Senior Leaders, Members and Partners. A key focus for this role will be to support the success of large-scale regeneration activity and economic growth ambitions for Wirral.

### MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Manage all litigation in relation to planning and property to ensure the Council's interests are safeguarded.
- Provide high quality, constructive legal and constitutional advice and assistance to Council, Cabinet, Council committees/panels, members and senior management.
- Attend Council, Cabinet and Committee/panel meetings and provide legal and constitutional advice as necessary.
- Proactively advise on policy and policy development in line with changing law, legislation and best practice.
- Provide high quality and effective legal advice and support on high value, complex, high profile, significant litigation matters, in relation to planning and property and as allocated by the Head of Legal Services.
- Supply constructive legal advice to schools, Council functions and external client to ensure compliance with the law.

- Ensure proper procedures are in place for the authorisation of covert surveillance under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).
- Undertake other reasonable duties commensurate with the job role.

## **ROLE SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS**

- A qualified and practising barrister, solicitor, legal executive (Fellow) or equivalent (subject to or awaiting QLTS).
- At least 3 years post qualification experience (as per the Law Society).
- Experience of line management and managing legally qualified staff, mentoring or providing support.
- Experience of dealing with complex matters within relevant areas of law, having provided advice, guidance, and support in a wide variety of cases.
- Knowledge of local government legislation and guidance with an awareness of current local government issues including governance arrangements, decision making and corporate governance.
- Able to prioritise varying workloads and deal with high volumes of work to tight deadlines whilst maintaining a high-quality service.
- Ability to successfully work within broad guidelines, using discretion and initiative over a range of activity with limited escalation to senior managers.
- Sound knowledge, awareness and application of ethical, professional and capability standards and requirements.
- Tact, diplomacy, empathy and political awareness with resilience in dealing with competing and demanding pressures and potentially emotionally difficult situations and information.
- Commitment to consistently delivering high standards of customer care.
- You will be committed to your own continued professional development which will include regulation, case law and best practice.

## **DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS**

- Experience of working in a political environment or local government.
- Ability to assist the Head of Service in internal investigations and other projects.
- Deal with major projects in an innovative, pragmatic and customer-focused manner.
- Ability to give appropriate and timely legal advice in response to tight deadlines/emergency situations.



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Required to work outside of normal office hours/flexible working patterns inherent part of the post.
- Able to travel around the Borough using public or private transport.
- Ability to work remotely.
- This post is politically restricted.

**DATE OF APPROVAL: PHILIP MCCOURT (DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE)**

**APPROVED BY: 12/10/2020**

